

Free and Reduced Application Process

Any child at a participating school may purchase a meal through the National School Lunch Program. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level, Food Stamp or TANF numbers, homeless, and migrants are eligible for free meals. Those with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals. Children from families with incomes over 185 percent of poverty level pay full price.

A free and reduced application must be given to every household. We have provided you with the forms needed to start the free and reduced application process. Print off the forms provided:

- Parent Letter/Instructions for Free and Reduced Application

- Free and Reduced Application for Meals

- Income Eligibility Guidelines

- Notification Letter of Free and reduced Meals

Parent Letter/Instructions for Free and Reduced Application: sent with the Free and Reduced Application for Meals to help the parents fill out the application.

Free and Reduced Application for Meals: the standardized application that is used by all schools in Indiana. (If you anticipate a large number of free eligible students, contact our office about direct certification prior to sending out your applications.)

Income Eligibility Guidelines: helps a school determine if a household's income meets the guidelines to be on free or reduced meals.

Notification Letter of Free and Reduced Meals: sent to the household once the application is processed.

Rates of Reimbursement: shows the amount of money your school foodservice account will receive for paid, free, and reduced meals and the *maximum* price charged to students on free or reduced meals.

Calendar: used by schools to track when School Nutrition Program requirements are due.